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*La France économique et sociale à la veille de la révolution.* Par MAXIME KOVALEWSKY. Tome II, "Les Villes." Paris: V. Giard & E. Brière, 1911. (Bibliothèque sociologique internationale, dirigée par M. René Worms.) Pp. 320. Paper, Fr. 7; bound, Fr. 8.

The volume in hand is the second by Kovalewsky on social conditions in France just before the Revolution. The first volume, which appeared in 1909, dealt with rural France; this one treats of towns and cities, particularly of their industry and commerce. It has two chapters and an appendix as follows: chap. i, "Organization corporative et naissance de la liberté du travail"; chap. ii, "Organization de l'industrie française pendant le dernier quart du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle." The appendix is a sort of after-study of the conditions of the prerevolutionary peasant, based upon documents which have been printed since the results of Kovalewsky's earlier investigations on this subject were published; it may be added here that he finds his former conclusions verified.

As far as research is concerned, this work can only be praised. Its pages are heavily documented with citations and quotations which represent nothing short of an overwhelming amount of labor. Letters, cahiers, reports of inspectors, intendants, and investigating commissions, and statutes of guilds, towns, and of the central government; in short, all available sources have been plundered to contribute to the information here collected. The result of what is professionally considered as good methodical investigation is the accumulation of an enormous number of historical minutiae concerning the period here in question.

Often it happens that when facts are amassed in this fashion the purpose of their accumulation is obscured by their number. Unhappily, the book of Kovalewsky does not seem to the reviewer to have altogether avoided this fault. Certain it is that his pages do not make his interpretation of the facts assembled sufficiently emphatic. Is he striving to determine the relation of capital to labor by showing that in 1789 France was a country in which industry on a small scale still preponderated, to trace the development of independent labor, to discover the real cause of the Revolution (pp. 309-10, 312), or to ascertain why French could not compete with English industry in the latter half of the eighteenth century? His own statement of his purpose is not very helpful: inasmuch as at one point he announces the preponderance of industry on a small scale to be "la thèse que nous soutenons" (p. 232-33); and at another point in the same chapter (p. 253) says: "Cet aperçu nous semble avoir pleinement démontré la thèse exprimée

dans la première partie de ce chapitre, à savoir que le manque de capitaux et l'imperfection des procédés techniques, ainsi que la politique fiscale et les inconvénients de la réglementation gouvernementale, ont placé l'industrie française à la fin du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle, dans des conditions qui l'empêchèrent de soutenir la concurrence des manufactures anglaises. . . ."

Aside from this confusion or multiplicity of purpose in the use of the facts, the author's work must be commended. The facts he has assembled are indisputably pertinent to an understanding of the economic conditions of France on the eve of the Revolution; as, by the way, they are to the several theses the author has, without sufficient discrimination as has just been said, maintained in his work. Particularly interesting and useful is the second part of chapter two in which the several industries, especially the silk and cloth industries, are considered in detail. This part alone makes the book worth while.

EDWARD B. KREHBIEL

#### BOOK NOTICES

*The Social Direction of Human Evolution.* By WILLIAM E. KELLICOTT, Professor of Biology, Goucher College. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1911. Pp. xii+249.

After a satisfactory presentation of the sources and aims of the science of eugenics, the author discusses briefly but significantly the biological foundations of eugenics, after which he takes up human heredity and the eugenic program.

He treats each of these great themes better than it has been done in equal compass by anyone else after whom the reviewer has had the opportunity to read. It may be that at some places the author has been a little more dogmatic than the demonstrations of science on the point would warrant, but this absolute declaration may perhaps be explained on the ground of brief treatment. It does not appear that the author is in error on any point, but he sometimes appears to be certain when there is a division of opinion among scientists on the point itself. An example is the author's handling of the subject of inheritance of mental and moral characters.

For the great body of people who are specialists in neither biology nor sociology, *The Social Direction of Human Evolution* is an invaluable book. It will be easily read and understood by the layman, and will be very clarifying for the specialist in either field. The timeliness of the subject adds greatly to the value of the book.

THOMAS J. RILEY

*The Almshouse.* By ALEXANDER JOHNSON, General Secretary of the National Conference of Charities and Correction. New York: The Charities Publication Committee, Russell Sage Foundation, 1911. Pp. x+263.

This annual deals with the location, construction, and administration of the almshouse; and the management and care of the several classes of inmates.